account of economic-imbalances and such imbalances in a particular State or region should be tackled through the mechanism of planned development. Steps are being taken in this direction.

Sharing of Ganga Waters with Bangladesh

1042.SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any initiative to enter into a fresh agreement with Bangladesh on the question of sharing of Ganga Water;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to ensure the flow of adequate water into the Hooghly river through the feeder canal at Farakka Barrage point; and

(c) what is the outcome of the ongoing bilateral talks between India and Bangladesh on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Bilateral talks with Bangladesh for sharing of Ganga Water have not been completed.

Accumulation of goods for export at Delhi Airport due to non-availability of freight carriers

1043. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about two thousand tonnes of goods for export are lying at Delhi Airport due to non-availability of freight carriers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that export orders amounting to more than twenty crores of rupees have been cancelled by foreign buyers as a result thereof;

(c) if so, what action has been taken to tackle the situation and also to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. While a number of representations have been received regarding accumulation of export consignments at Delhi Airport, however, no reports have been received regarding cancellation of any specific export order.

(b) and (c) During the peak season from January to June, due to spurt in export activity, there is pressure on the air cargo export infrastructure and capacity. However, concerted measures have been taken with the assistance of the Ministries and agencies including Director-General of Civil Aviation, Customs, International, Airport Authority of India and the Airlines to arrange for additional flights and clear the cargo backlog. These measures include the adoption of an open skies policy involving grant of permission to scheduled and non-scheduled frighter operators to provide additional flights with inward loading rights, creation of increased holding capacity in the Goods Terminals at Gateway Airports, permitting tourist charter operators to carry expot consignments on their return flights from India, extension of the demurrage free period for export consignments in the IAAI warehouse from 6 days to 11 days and extension of garment quota expiry date from 17th to 30th April, 1989 etc.

Departmental stores for Delhi Police

1044. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal for the opening of Departmental Stores for Delhi Police personnel wherefrom they could purchase essential commodities and get a commission of Rs. 50/- on their monthly purchase bill by way of subsidy;

(b) whether the proposal was not agreed to;

(c) whether the Fourth Pay Commission has made any recommendation in this regard; if so what are the details thereof; and

(d) what follow-up action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Demands of handloom weavers from Andhra Pradesh

1045. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of weavers from Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister on the 5th April, 1989 and pleaded for extending some concessions to them and also pleaded for extending some welfare measures for them; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The memorandum relates *inter alia* to formulation of a textile policy which could ensure full and continuous employment with reasonable living wages to handloom weavers, preserve, protect and promote the handloom industry, save it from the menace of mush-room growth of powerlooms, ensure supply of yarn at reasonable prices etc.

The Textile Policy of 1985 has enunciated a number of steps to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to ensure higher earnings for the handlooms weavers. Action has been taken on the steps enunciated in the Textile Policy, *viz.*, development of handlooms through cooperatives and corporations, modernisation of looms, supply of inputs through NHDC, production of mixed and blended fabrics under Susman Cloth Scheme, reservation of 22 items for exclusive; production by handlooms, design support and technological inputs to improve the competitiveness of handloom products, implementation of Thrift Fund Scheme and Workshed-*cum*-Housing Scheme, etc. In addiiton, certain fiscal concessions are also extended to the handloom sector to enable it to compete with the products of mills and powerlooms. The Central Government is also implementing a package of schemes for the development of handloom sector in all the States.

Grievances of Tobacco Growers

1046. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to redress the grievances of tobacco growers;

(b) what measures are being taken to maintain stability in the prices of tobacco;

(c) whether Government propose to consult farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The grievances of tobacco growers mainly re-